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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,219	07/28/2003	Russell E. Blette	58800US002	5459
32692	7590	07/19/2005	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			ROWAN, KURT C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3643	

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/628,219	RUSSELL E. BLETTE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kurt Rowan	3643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5, 12, 13 and 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Handwritten signature/initials.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the first and second opposite ends of the male connector must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. The first and second ends of these connectors must be shown since they are positively claimed.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 14-15, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein '645 in view of Klein '852 for substantially the same reasons stated in the first Office Action.

The patents to Klein show fishing line connectors. Klein '645 shows a female connector H having an outer surface with first and second opposite ends. Klein shows the outer surface having an aperture 25 therein. Klein shows a first end connected to a first fishing line section L. Klein shows a second end having a coaxial opening 23. Klein shows the connector having a coaxial interior feature 30 with radial extent. Klein '645 shows a knot in a second fishing line F that acts to keep the line in the connector. The patent to Klein '852 shows a similar connector having a male connector 41 having a radial extent greater than the diameter of the female connector 45 due to barbs 51. At least one of the connectors is resilient so that the second end of the male connector compresses or the interior feature of the female connector expands to allow passage of the second end of the male connector axially past the interior feature. In reference to claims 1, 14, and 18, it would have been obvious to provide Klein '645 with a male connector to replace the knot in the line since merely one equivalent connector is being replaced by another and the function is the same. In reference to claim 2, inherently, in

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Klein '645, the female connector is removal ably connected to the first fishing line section. In reference to claim 3, Klein shows the axial bore of first end of the female connector having a diameter greater than a diameter of an end of the first fishing line section and less than the diameter of a knot formed at an end of the first fishing line. In reference to claim 4, Klein '852 shows a male connector with a head (not labeled but see Fig. 2) at a first end and a plurality of petals 51 having a greater radial extent than a radial extent of the head. In reference to claim 18, Klein does not disclose replacing line segments by cutting the line and then discarding the line and male connector and replacing the section with a second male connector and another fishing line section, but it would have been obvious to do so in order to change rigs mounted to the male connector.

4. Claims 9-11, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein '645 in view of Klein '852 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Boyer. The patents to Klein have been discussed above and do not show a float used with the rig. The patent to Boyer shows a float 10. In reference to claim 9 and 17, it would have been obvious to provide Klein with a float as shown by Boyer to fish at a certain depth. It would have further been obvious to pass the end of the first fishing line through the bore of the float noting Fig. 2 of Boyer. In reference to claim 10, Boyer shows a radically symmetric float. In reference to claim 11, Boyer shows a tapered float in Figs. 1-2.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed April 28, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the knowledge is generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. The reason to slip the barbs of Klein '852 into the socket 30 of Klein '645 would be to lock an element in place noting that the knot 33 provides the same function. This is not contrary to the teachings of Klein '852 since a better or more secure bond would be formed. This also does not preclude that some of the barbs would grab onto the walls of the socket. Klein shows a male connector having a first end and a second end. The second end is connected to a fishing line S by way of the connector and the radial extent is greater than the radial extent of the interior feature of the female connector. As to the combination of Klein '645 in view of Klein '852, one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to employ merely the top portion 51 of the shank 41 and connect it to a fishing line which would connect with the hook H at another point to suit different fishing conditions noting that two lines are employed by Klein '645.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kurt Rowan whose telephone number is (571) 272-6893. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on (571) 272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Rowan", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kurt Rowan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3643

KR